

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. POE of Texas addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WOOLSEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### LIVING WITHIN OUR MEANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. KAGEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KAGEN. Madam Speaker, everywhere I go in Wisconsin, people are saying the same thing: Government must live within its means. I agree. After all, being fiscally responsible is the Wisconsin way.

People all across northeast Wisconsin pay their bills on time, and they're tired of seeing their money wasted on bailouts for Wall Street speculators. Everyone, and I mean everyone, is rightfully angry, and so am I. We simply don't believe in rewarding failure in Wisconsin, and that is why I voted against every single bailout that came along.

And never forget, never forget how we fell into this mess.

When I was elected in 2006, the people in power in Washington, D.C., were pursuing borrow-and-spend policies, policies that drove our economy into the ditch without paying a single dime for them. Without paying for a single dime, the previous administration spent money we did not have on two wars—two wars at the same time—two tax cuts for the rich, gigantic handouts to big drug companies on Wall Street, and a trillion-dollar bailout for their friends on Wall Street in the big banks, and asking, asking our children and grandchildren to pay for it all.

Well, enough is enough. We must live within our means. Our government must invest in our own people right here at home, not on Wall Street and not overseas. We must rebuild our own economy and grow the jobs. We need to work our way back into prosperity.

When voting for any legislation, I only have the best interests of my constituents in Wisconsin in mind. The pay-as-you-go rules which were enacted today will be successful, as they were in the 1990s, and this is exactly the medicine we need today to begin to turn today's enormous debts into future surpluses. That is why I strongly support the passage of pay-as-you-go rules, just as I have seven times previously during my public service.

It's really a simple, responsible thing to do. Washington must live within its means and pay its bills on time, just as

we do around our own kitchen tables every month across Wisconsin.

Mandatory pay-as-you-go rules are critical to reducing our national debt. Over time, these responsible spending rules will contain Federal expenditures and balance our budgets, for when government attempts to spend money on one program, it must either raise revenues or cut spending on another program. It's just that simple. Live within our means.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. JONES addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MORAN of Kansas addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GOHMERT addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MCCLINTOCK addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GINGREY of Georgia addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BROUN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BROUN of Georgia addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### DOES CONGRESS HAVE THE COURAGE TO CONFRONT THE ECONOMIC THREAT TO AMERICA'S FUTURE?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. AKIN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. AKIN. Madam Chair, in the next hour we're going to be talking about a subject that has caught the attention of Americans. It's, generally speaking, a boring subject, but now it's not become boring anymore, and that is the problem with the Federal Government overspending, the problem with the budgets that have been proposed, the problem of the financial trajectory of our country and the threat that that trajectory poses.

I'd like to step back in time a little bit as a Republican to talk about the fact that over a 12-year period, Republicans had deficit spending in a number of years at about a hundred billion dollars or maybe a little more. If you put that all together over 12 years, you have over a trillion dollar amount of deficit spending.

But what we're looking at in 1 year now is over a trillion dollars. In other words, the Democrats are spending more in 1 year than we did in 12 years, or you could say that they're spending enough in 1 month to compensate for every year of the Republicans.

Now, the past President was criticized that he overspent; he spent too much money. His biggest deficit was in 2008 with the Pelosi Congress at about \$450 billion of excessive spending.

Just the number of billion dollars, it's hard for us to recognize how does that relate to something. So let's put it in perspective and take a look at it as a percent of the gross domestic product of our country.

The \$450 billion deficit with the Pelosi Congress and President Bush, that number would be about 3.1 percent of GDP. That is actually fairly average for many different years and different Presidents.

The 2008 deficit was followed by 2009, of course, and it was, again, the Pelosi Congress, but this time the Obama administration. And after all kinds of criticism of the Republicans for spending too much money, the budget was \$1.4 trillion of deficit. That is three times worse than the worst year of President Bush.